

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the second Office action issued in connection with the above-identified patent application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Prior to entry of the above amendments, claims 1-6 and 9-15 were pending and subject to election. Specifically, the Examiner requires Applicant to elect between the species disclosed in Figs. 1 and 2 (claims 1-3 and 10) and the species disclosed in Fig. 3 (claims 3-6, 9, and 11-15). As expressed in the Office action, the first species is directed to a sock with openings positioned through the body of the sock, and the second species is directed to a sock with a channel having openings at its top and bottom.

Applicant respectfully traverses the grounds for restriction, in that both identified species were previously examined in the first Office action, and all grounds for rejection from the first Office action have apparently been withdrawn. However, and in view of the second Office action Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects the first species for continued examination of this application. Accordingly, claims 4-6, 9, and 11-15 are cancelled without prejudice. These claims have not been abandoned, and Applicant understands that prosecution of these claims may be resumed in a related application.

In the above amendments, a clarifying amendment has been made to claim 1, and Applicant has added new claims 16-31. Each of these new claims depends directly or indirectly from pending claims 1-3. As such, Applicant submits that examination of these new claims is proper when claims 1-3 are again examined. Applicant submits that support for the new claims may be found in pages 7-9 of the specification, as well as in

the Figures. Perhaps more importantly, Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the new claims.

With the entry of the above amendments, and for the reasons discussed herein, Applicant submits that all of the issues raised in the first Office action have been addressed and overcome. If there are any remaining issues or if the Examiner has any questions, Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at the number listed below. Similarly, if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview may be productive in advancing prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David S. D'Ascenzo', is written over a horizontal line.

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